CIRCULATION COPY 1

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Logistic Support In Vietnam, Military Family Housing Are Discussed By Defense Department Officials For Benefit Of Service Members

Logistic support in Vietnam and military family housing worldwide were two of the principal subjects discussed by Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics) Barry J. Shillito and Army Chief of Staff (Logistics) Lieutenant General Joseph M. Heiser, Jr., during a July 24 videotape session of "Directions '71," a weekly production of the Information Office of the Armed Forces in Washington.

Asked by the program moderator, Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Bob Strickland, to explain the logistic support that is occurring with the retrograde movement in Vietnam, Mr. Shillito replied, "The changing picture ties directly to the significant reduction in our over-all troops or people in Vietnam as we move now to the 184,000 people by the first of December. Naturally, as this takes place, the logistics piece of the total directly ties to this manpower shift. This means that we are talking about significant tonnages of material being retrograded, being transferred possibly to allies in Southeast Asia, and significant tonnage also being scrapped as we bring about this reduction of our operations there."

'Logistic Offensive'

Gen. Heiser was asked to explain the Army's "logistic offensive," a term that began to be applied to Army logistic operations in Vietnam in late 1968.

Gen. Heiser answered, "We had to build up our logistic base beginning in 1965 and 1966. It began to mature around 1967 so that we could be sure exactly what we had, what we required and then take appropriate action.

"There were many complex things, as there always are in a field such as logistics. There are many things that we can do to improve, and, particularly in this war, we began to recognize quickly that we could do many things far more efficiently than we had ever done them before. And, we began doing this. And one day General Creighton W. Abrams [Commander, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam] indicated to me that he thought what was being done was very fine. He considered this to be what a combat soldier calls an offensive action—meaning you really move out and make it go. He said, 'I've been calling what you're doing a logistic offensive. Don't you think that's a good name for it?'

"I said, 'Yes sir.'

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHILLITO

Positive Action

"Really, it is a way of expressing the fact that we have a positive action program to gain efficiency and improve combat effectiveness in support of the combat American. We have extended this, since the end of Calendar Year 1969, across the entire Army and we have specific projects that mount in the hundreds in order to increase our over-all efficiency and maintain or increase combat effectiveness."

Mr. Shillito was then asked, "Does the United States plan to hand over, eventually, all of the permanent or semi-permanent bases now being used by U.S. forces there to the South Vietnamese?"

He replied, "We have about 400 fairly significant installations in Vietnam. As of now, about 60 per cent of these installations have either been handed over or are in the process of being handed over to the Vietnamese. By the first of August of this year, we will have made plans for handing over that portion of the balance that will be going to the Vietnamese. Practically all of our installations will be handed over consequently to the Vietnamese."

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LOGISTIC SUPPORT

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The moderator went on, "In line with that same question, there was a report and some uproar in the press earlier—I believe it was earlier this year—about a base that we had handed over in Tay Ninh Province, if I'm not mistaken?"

"That's correct," Mr. Shillito affirmed.

"And the reports indicated," the moderator said, "that the Vietnamese moved in and began scrapping and salvaging permanent buildings, making it appear that they were going to tear down the base and use our installations that were built by us there for their own comfort. Is that correct?"

Two Points

Mr. Shillito explained, "There are two points to that question. You must recognize that every U.S. installation will not be used by the Vietnamese the same as it had been used by the U.S. A number of installations will either partially or in total, logically, be dismantled. In that particular instance, though, the Tay Ninh Province installation, and the action that led to the publicity that this received, a few things happened that were a little bit abnormal.

"The Vietnamese that had occupied that base—the division that had occupied that base—moved into Cambodia. There undoubtedly was a situation that did get just a little bit out of control as far as protecting the installation in total. And I would say that, undoubtedly, a lesson was learned by the Vietnamese in order to minimize the possibility of that happening again."

Asked if the U.S. Government was paying rent to South Vietnam for land on which we have built bases and installations, Mr. Shillito replied, "This is right again, but just to a point. It's such an insignificant piece of the total that it's been ballooned very much out of proportion. You have to look at this somewhat statistically. We have about 5,000—or had about 5,000—fairly significant pieces of real estate that we operated from in a totally rent-free, U.S.-used manner. And, of course, this is the vast majority of the real estate that we in the U.S. had used and have been using in Vietnam.

"Indeed, it has been necessary that we do also rent some facilities for a number of purposes, particularly in or around some of the metropolitan areas. This would now average something well under $10 million a year that we'd be paying for these kinds of rentals. And you must remember that U.S. forces do pay rentals for installations around the world in a number of instances in similar kind of situations."

Rent Facilities

Gen. Heiser interjected, "I'll add a thought to this. And that is that we have to recognize that we are dealing with a sovereign country. We are trying to help them establish their economy. They do have private property owned by private individuals who are citizens of that country and, therefore, rent does have to be paid on that type of property."

The general was then asked, "The supply problem in Vietnam was probably a classic logistics operation. One of the more outstanding aspects, at least to the line trooper's way of thinking, was the fact that all Services seemed to cooperate in all provinces supplying each other. This is not a normal operation, I understand, but is this type of thing planned to continue? When we go into other operations are we going to supply each other?"

He replied, "As a result of our experience in Vietnam, we have discovered the efficiencies and the combat effectiveness that can be gained through this type of common support; it is an objective stated by the Secretary of Defense only recently that we would not only continue this in the future, but step it up. And, very frankly, the experience we have gained is standing us in good stead so that, regardless of the uniform that the American may happen to wear, he gets the best support that he can get in whatever efficient pipeline of support we have."

'Brown Water Navy'

Asked about the present status of the "Brown Water Navy," meaning the hundreds of river patrol boats used in Vietnam, the three-star general said, "They're doing very well. . . . They have been handed over. This was one of the earlier aspects of the program to improve the Vietnamese capability of taking care of themselves. In the fourth military region where the Brown Navy has been operating, we began, in Calendar Year 1969, to hand over equipment necessary to patrol that area and keep it under control. They have been doing a very fine job."

To which Ass't. Sec. Shillito added: "For quite a while after the turnover, our Navy did have a number of people — so-called 'riders' — that actually operated with the Vietnamese after the turnover. In the last several months, even these have been minimal. The South Vietnamese have been able to patrol quite adequaely on these installations, on these facilities, and are doing a good job of it.

"What's going to happen to all the hardware we have there, all the planes, for example? What's going to happen to them?" Mr. Shillito put forth.

"We maintain a very close surveillance," he said, "over all hardware, all materials, all installations. Now this involves, as far as equipment is concerned —major equipment, by the way—44 types of major equipment. And we find that as of today, we have about 170,000 items that have been handed over to the Vietnamese. This would be about 70 plus per cent of all the major equipment we're talking about.

Piece of Picture

"Now, of course, this is just a piece of the total picture. But as far as other equipment is concerned, again, a lot of this will be retrograded, coming back to the United States. A lot of it will be going into the hands of other allies. So I would say it's a well-put-together, well-organized, well-managed total plan and it's being conducted by the Department of Defense with virtually nothing in the way of publicity as to how this is being handled. There's no War Assets Admin-

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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Cites Role Of United Nations

Secretary Rogers Briefs Newsmen On Chinese Representation

Secretary of State William P. Rogers held a press conference at the Department of State Aug. 2 to brief newsmen concerning Chinese representation in the United Nations.

Secretary Rogers said: The world is approaching the midpoint between the end of World War II and the end of the 20th Century. The United Nations, founded in the aftermath of the war, has passed its 25th anniversary.

President Nixon has been adapting American foreign policy with these facts in mind—forging policies directed to the future while taking fully into account the legacies of the past.

From its inception the United Nations was designed, above all else, to keep the peace shattered by two world wars within a generation. The first words of the United Nations Charter, adopted at San Francisco in 1945, express a common determination to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."

In October, 1969, President Richard Nixon said with regard to Latin America that "we must deal realistically with governments . . . as they are." Both in Asia and elsewhere in the world we are seeking to accommodate our role to the realities of the world today. Our objective is to contribute, in practical terms, to the building of a framework for a stable peace.

No question of Asian policy has so perplexed the world in the last 20 years as the China question—and the related question of representation in the United Nations. Basic to that question is the fact that each of two governments claims to be the sole government of China and representative of all of the people of China.

Representation in an international organization need not prejudice the claims or views of either government. Participation of both in the United Nations need not require that result.

Rather it would provide governments with increased opportunities for contact and communication. It would also help promote cooperation on common problems which affect all of the member nations regardless of political differences.

SECRETARY ROGERS

The United States, accordingly, will support action at the General Assembly this fall calling for seating the Peoples Republic of China. At the same time, the United States will oppose any action to expel the Republic of China or otherwise deprive it of representation in the United Nations.

Our consultations, which began several months ago, have indicated that the question of China's seat in the Security Council is a matter which many nations will wish to address. In the final analysis, of course, under the Charter provision, the Security Council will make this decision. We, for our part, are prepared to have this question resolved on the basis of a decision of members of the United Nations.

Our consultations have also shown that any action to deprive the Republic of China of its representation would meet with strong opposition in the General Assembly. Certainly, as I have said, the United States will oppose it.

The Republic of China has played a loyal and conscientious role in the UN since the organization was founded. It has lived up to all of its Charter obligations. Having made remarkable progress in developing its own economy, it has cooperated internationally by providing valuable technical assistance to a number

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Flights Demonstrate SRAM Missile Success

The successful completion of the Short Range Attack Missile (SRAM) development flight test program was announced July 22 by Air Force Secretary Robert C. Seamans Jr.

The 38 flights conducted in the program demonstrated the missile's launch capability at both subsonic and supersonic speeds and its ability to approach targets at both high and low altitudes.

The SRAM system is currently designated for installation on manned strategic bombers such as the B-52, FB-111 and the B-1, which is now under development.

SRAM test launches included 19 each from both the B-52 and the FB-111 aircraft. Test results showed that the supersonic missile can hit targets at varying distances ahead, behind and to the side of the aircraft from which it was launched.

The Air Force reported that range capability beyond the contract requirements was achieved, and demonstrated accuracy and radar cross section were were considerably better than specifications.

More than 60 firms provide components for the SRAM weapon system. Final assembly of the missiles is conducted at Hill AFB, Utah.

SECRETARY ROGERS

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of lesser developed countries, particularly in Africa.

The position of the United States is that, if the United Nations is to succeed in its peacekeeping role, it must deal with the realities of the world in which we live. Thus, the United States will cooperate with those who, whatever their views on the status of the relationship of the two governments, wish to continue to have the Republic of China represented in the United Nations.

The outcome, of course, will be decided by 127 members of the United Nations. For our part, we believe that the decision we have taken is fully in accord with President Nixon's desire to normalize relations with the Peoples Republic of China in the interests of world peace and in accord with our conviction that the continued representation in the United Nations of the Republic of China will contribute to peace and stability in the world.

I will take a few questions.

Question. Mr. Secretary, have you received any indication from either China that they would be prepared to sit with one another in the United Nations?

Secretary Rogers. No.

Q. Mr. Secretary, in your statement, you say that we are prepared to have the question of the seat on the Security Council decided by the UN members. In the previous paragraph, you say that the United States will oppose any effort to deprive Nationalist China of representation in the United Nations. What position will we take, or are we taking, on the assumption of the Nationalist seat on the Security Council by the Peoples Republic of China?

Secretary. Well at this time I have nothing to add to the statement. As I have said, this matter may arise in the discussion in the General Assembly, and if it does, we will be prepared to certainly abide by the wishes of the majority of the members of the United Nations.

Q. Mr. Secretary, from the wording of this statement, it would appear that the United States would be also in favor of seating of both Vietnams, both Koreas, and both Germanies. Is that a correct assumption?

Secretary. No, I don't think that is a correct assumption. We are dealing now with a problem of representation in the United Nations of a country that has been represented in the United Nations since its beginning. That is not true in the case of the other divided countries. So the statement does not direct itself to that point.

Q. Mr. Secretary, under your formulation here, would the present occupant of the Chinese seat in the Security Council have the power to veto any change in the membership in that seat?

Secretary. Well, that is a matter of tactics which I don't want to address today. I think that there will be many questions raised in the General Assembly this fall on matters of this kind. The purpose of this statement is to announce the policy of the United States. We will be discussing our tactics with other governments as we approach the General Assembly.

Q. Mr. Secretary, does this mean that we are going to drop the claim that this is an important question?

Secretary. Well, there again it is a matter of tactics. But insofar as the Peoples Republic of China is concerned, I think that in view of this announcement by the United States, the important question, insofar as it relates the PRC's admission, is academic. Certainly as far as the Republic of China is concerned, we think that the expulsion obviously is an important question. The charter so provides. And we will do all we can to support that position: that the expulsion of the Republic of China is an important question.

Q. Sir, I am not clear at one point whether or not the General Assembly would decide whether the Republic of China would retain the Security Council seat.

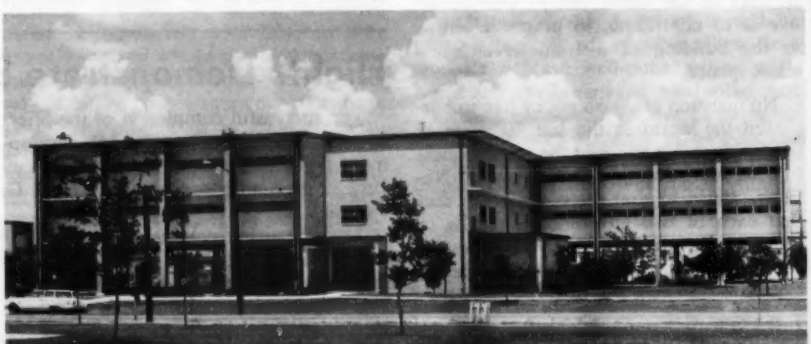
Secretary. Well, I have nothing, as I say, to add to this statement. I think the statement speaks for itself. Under the Charter, the final decision rests with the Security Council. But, as you say, from this statement, we have said that we would abide by the views of the majority of nations.

Q. Mr. Secretary—"would abide by the majority?" of the General Assembly votes on the Security Council question?

Secretary. Well, let's wait to see how it develops. But we have made it clear that, as far as the United States is concerned, we would be willing to abide by the majority vote of the members of the United Nations.

Q. Sir, it was said that the Ambassadors, with whom you had spoken all the way along in this continuing series of talks, would be informed in advance of this decision of the policy of the United States. Have these Ambassadors been informed, and how would you assess the general reaction to this position?

Secretary. Well, they have been informed. We have worked very closely with the nations primarily concerned and many others, for that matter, and we have informed them of this policy decision. I would not want to speak for them.



LACKLAND DORMITORY. Personnel being treated as part of the Air Force program for drug abuse rehabilitation will live in this 1,040-man dormitory at Lackland AFB, Tex. The three-floor building has facilities for the men to sleep, eat, attend classes and spend their leisure time in or around the special treatment center. The dormitory is also centrally heated and air conditioned.
(U.S. Air Force Photo released by DoD)

I think it's up to them to speak for themselves.

Q. Mr. Secretary, the Charter provides that the expulsion of a member is an important question. But what about the expulsion of a delegation?

Secretary. Well, there again, that is a matter of tactics. We believe that the expulsion question, insofar as it relates to the Republic of China, is an important question. An that is going to be our position this fall.

Q. Mr. Secretary, getting back to the Security Council, are you implying, then, if a majority of members of the General Assembly vote to seat the Peoples Republic of China, that they should have the seat in the Security Council?

Secretary. No, I haven't implied anything beyond the words of this statement. They are carefully drafted. I think it is clear that we have said we will abide by the views of the majority of the members of the United Nations.

Q. Can we assume, Mr. Secretary, that this Government will take a somewhat passive role on the Security Council question, or, when the session arrives, will we openly advocate one position or the other?

Secretary. We are not going to speculate at the moment about the tactics that we will use at the United Nations. I think it is important to focus our attention on the decision of this Government, which is to vote in favor of the admission of the Peoples Republic of China and to oppose the expulsion of the Republic of China. Now, [as for] the reasons I have set forth in this statement: we think the realities of the world require that both be represented. One represents 700 to 800 million people. In Taiwan, there are 14 million or more people. And we think both should be represented in the United Nations.

Q. Mr. Secretary, could you tell us whether your reference in your statement to the fact that it does not necessarily have to resolve the question of who is the government of all of China means that we have decided to—that rules out the question of our recognizing—

Secretary. No, not at all, not at all. The only question I am addressing this morning is representation in the United Nations.

Q. Sir, President Nixon said in his first news conference in response to a question that the policy at this time will be to continue to oppose Communist China's admission to the United Nations, and he listed three reasons. One was that Communist China has not indicated any interest in becoming a member. Two, that it has not indicated any intent to abide by the principles of the Charter. And three, that it continues to call for expelling the Republic of China from the UN.

What has changed since the President's initial news conference statement on this?

Secretary. I think the first change of significance refers to Point No. 1. Until recently, the Peoples Republic of China has strongly opposed the United Nations, has been extremely critical of the United Nations, has proposed that the Charter of the United Nations had to be amended, etc.

Now, in the last nine months or a year, their attitude towards the United Nations has changed, and we think that they are now interested in becoming members of the United Nations.

Secondly, their attitude toward other governments has changed markedly. They have established diplomatic relations with several other governments. Certainly their relations with the United States have improved. And all of these things together lead us to the conclusion that it is wise in the United Nations to have them represented. After all, they represent about one-quarter of the people on the surface of the earth. And as I have said, if the United Nations is to perform its function of keeping the peace, it is important to have their voice heard in the United Nations.

Q. Mr. Secretary, does the United States have reason to believe that, as far as the Republic of China is concerned, its delegation will not make the whole question moot upon the announcement of this decision by departing on its own accord from the United Nations?

Secretary. Well, I wouldn't want to make any comment about the position of the Republic of China. Any statement about their position or policy, I think, should come from them.

Q. Mr. Secretary, has the Peoples Republic of China been informed of this policy?

Secretary. No, it has not—of this announcement or the policy that I am announcing this morning.

Q. Mr. Secretary, is the United States in favor of having the two governments of China negotiate the differences between them?

Secretary. Well, I don't want to get involved in that this morning. We are talking about the representation question in the United Nations.

Q. Mr. Secretary, has the Peoples Republic of China been informed of our decision to support its bid for admission to the United Nations?

Secretary. That was the question I just addressed. The answer is no.

Q. Mr. Secretary, I thought the question was about the Republic of China.

Secretary. No, no, no. He [the previous reporter] asked [about] the Peoples Republic of China.

Q. Has Taipei been informed of this?

Secretary. Yes, of course.

U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

	As of 29 July 1971	As of 22 July 1971
Army	179,000	181,800
Navy	10,400	10,500
Marines	500	500
Air Force	36,300	36,300
Coast Guard	100	100
TOTAL:	226,300*	229,200

In addition, approximately 18,000 Navy personnel with 7th Fleet forces and 200 U.S. Coast Guard personnel are aboard ships operating off the coast of Vietnam. These personnel are part of the U.S. commitment to SEA but are not included in U.S. strength-in-country figures.

*This is a decrease of 2,900 over the previous week.

– AMERICAN RED CROSS: A Side-Door Benefit –

The American Red Cross (ARC) is the instrument chosen by the Congress to help carry out the obligations assumed by the United States under certain international treaties known as the Geneva or Red Cross Conventions.

Specifically, its Congressional charter imposes on the American Red Cross the duties to act as the medium of voluntary relief and communications between the American people and their armed forces and to carry on a system of national and international relief to prevent and mitigate suffering caused by disasters.

All of the activities of the American Red Cross and its chapters support these duties.

Nationally and locally, the American Red Cross is governed by volunteers. Most of its duties are performed by volunteers, and it is financed by voluntary contributions.

The ARC is the official approach, through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at Geneva, Switzerland, for the United States Government to inquire about the treatment of our men held captive by North Vietnam.

The thrust of the ARC's effort on behalf of our captives and "missing men" has centered on finding some way to induce North Vietnam to honor its ratification of the Geneva Conventions and provide humane treatment to American prisoners of war.

Hanoi's Viewpoint

North Vietnam's intransigence is of long standing; it takes the position that the Americans it holds are "war criminals" and, therefore, are ineligible for protection under the Geneva Conventions. Hanoi's viewpoint has been fully denied by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and by specialists in international law.

When countless cables and letters to National Liberation Front and North Vietnamese representatives failed to produce results, the ARC initiated, in October, 1969, a massive "Write Hanoi" campaign, which is still in progress. The initial response from the American public was astounding. National Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D.C., received more than 165,000 letters by May, 1970. The total does not include letters sent to local ARC chapters or those mailed directly to Hanoi or Paris.

At the same time, other patriotic organizations and private citizens joined in, conducting their own "Write Hanoi" campaigns. Understandably, there is no way to estimate the total number of letters the North Vietnamese have received.

Letter writing campaign results are always difficult to measure, but the fact stands out that, coincident with this drive, there has been an easing on prisoner mail and food parcel restrictions. The volume of mail that American families received from known PWs jumped from 620 letters in January, 1969, to 2,700 in November, 1970. At the same time, the number of PWs identified by North Vietnam tripled. Hanoi also has allowed, since February, 1970, the shipment of a food parcel to identified prisoners every other month.

Yet the ARC is hardly satisfied with such meager results and slow progress. As of May 6, 1971, the Department of Defense listed 1,170 missing and 460 captured. Moreover, identification of prisoners and notification of those killed or who have died in captivity is merely the first step in applying the Geneva Conventions. Humane treatment under the watchful eye of the International Committee of the Red Cross or some other impartial organization or agent is included in the full application of this treaty.

The Government of South Vietnam allows ICRC officials to inspect prisoner-of-war camps and to interview prisoners. The Hanoi regime has refused to allow inspection of its camps by any impartial party.

Armed Forces Relationship

The ARC also has a day-to-day relationship with the armed forces. Basically, its charter calls for supporting and supplementing — without duplication — those activities that affect the health, welfare, recreation and morale of military personnel and their families.

A general catalogue of ARC services

to the armed forces include such activities as:

—Providing blood and blood products to many military, Veterans Administration and civilian hospitals, and, upon request, replacing blood used by the overseas serviceman's family members who are hospitalized in the United States.

—Counseling on personal and family problems.

—Transmitting information between members of the armed forces and their families when normal communications channels do not suffice, especially in emergency situations.

—Providing information needed by military commanders to assist in decisions affecting morale and welfare of military personnel or obtaining the facts to verify granting of emergency leave.

—Furnishing information to military personnel and their dependents about available Government benefits—Federal, State, and local.

—Referring military personnel and their families to social agencies which offer specialized assistance such as legal affairs, medical or psychiatric care, employment, and child welfare services.

—Providing money—loans or outright grants—to military personnel on emergency leave.

—Making loans to military dependents when allotment checks are lost or late.

—Offering patients in military hospitals a wide range of services, including medically-approved recreation programs, help to close relatives visiting patients at military hospitals, and assistance to patients unable to help themselves—from letter writing to running errands and mustering medical volunteers, when requested.

Cover Broad Spectrum

While these services cover a broad spectrum, there are many things the Red Cross cannot do. The Red Cross cannot commit funds to repay debts, start a business, pay a fine, post bail, pay legal counsel, or supplement military pay to meet a desired standard of living.

Such restrictions, however, do not imply that the Red Cross regards these problems of no consequence.

Rather, the ARC can counsel military families and refer them to other social organizations better equipped to do a particular job, such as military legal assistance offices, various aid societies of the armed forces, and Federal, State, and local welfare agencies.

Attack Social Problems?

The fact that the ARC does not usually attack social problems over the long haul—although the organization is becoming more and more involved in our Nation's pressing social needs—may well be responsible for much of the criticism that comes its way. The Red Cross has never believed, for an instant, that it is an organization of absolute virtue and perfect service to humanity. Indeed, the ARC, as a slice of American society, often quarrels with itself about goals and best means to achieve them.

Shortly after World War II, the Red Cross found its popularity had dropped virtually out of sight. A Gallup poll revealed in 1944 that 60 per cent of all Americans named it their most popular charitable organization. When the Gallup organization asked the same question in 1947, only 21 per cent selected the ARC.

The chief gripe seemed to center around the monetary charges the ARC levied in some overseas areas for meals and billets. Returning servicemen felt the American people had donated money for such services and they should have had such services free of charge.

Completely Sympathetic

The ARC was completely sympathetic with this attitude, but they could not do anything about it. The Secretary of War had ordered the American Red Cross to make nominal charges. The rationale was to equalize the vast discrepancy between the better-paid American serviceman and his lower-paid wartime allies.

Today, the Red Cross still weighs its activities in terms of individuals served, never as a numbers game; however, facts and figures compiled by the ARC in its last annual report have a way of speaking for themselves. Last year, the ARC spent $56,754,145 for services to members of the armed forces, veterans, and their families. At military installations and medical facilities, casework services were provided to 121,500 men each month. In local chapters, 2,708,500 services were given to families of servicemen. Loans and grants totaling $13,363,500 were made to servicemen, veterans, and their families. About 1,095,000 emergency messages were flashed to and from overseas posts.

Handles Big Job

As the statistics imply, the Red Cross job is big and it requires an army of workers. Some 2,310,000 unpaid volunteers—many of them military personnel and their dependents—make up the bulk of the force. A cadre of 14,059 career staff members fill it out, giving day-to-day continuity. Also readily apparent is the global nature of the ARC. Every major military installation at home or overseas has its field director and staff. The historic link between the ARC and the armed forces is further amplified by the fact that three famous military leaders have headed up the organization at one time or another—Generals George C. Marshall, Alfred M. Gruenther and James F. Collins.

NEW ASSIGNMENT. Brigadier General Robert F. Conley has been named Director of Information for the U.S. Marine Corps. The 30-year veteran and highly-decorated combat aviator comes to Marine Corps headquarters in Washington from Japan where he was Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing.
(Official U.S. Navy Photo)

LOGISTIC SUPPORT

(Continued From Page 2)

istration handling this; we're doing it ourselves. . . . The tonnage that went into Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War so far was almost 70 million tons—well over 20 million tons in excess of the total tonnage that went into Southeast Asia during World War II.

"So we're loking at a logistics operation that has been handled, I would say, in a most effective way, particularly now that we find ourselves withdrawing and working our way down to the numbers of people that are a part of our redeployment plans.

Gen. Heiser interjected: "In reality, we began what I would call efficient management in a combat zone in 1968. We have been progressing rapidly toward that efficiency that we have as our objective.

"In doing so," he continued, "we were ready for the kind of operation we now have involved in this retrograde, recognizing that we still have to maintain that combat man as long as he is in Vietnam; that is the first job."

Asked what was being done about military family housing, the assistant secretary noted that the present Administration considers military family housing "to be as essential as almost any other [subject].

"We are moving toward the largest housing budget in the history of the Department of Defense in Fiscal Year 1972," he said, "in spite of the terribly constraining situation as far as the need for our total defense dollar. We're talking about something just under $1 billion in 1972 related to this total subject of housing.

Virtually Nothing

"What does this add up to? Well, it adds up to a couple of things. Number one, since 1966-67-68, there was virtually nothing in the way of housing that was acquired by the Department of Defense. In 1968, we acquired 2,000 units of housing, DOD-wide. As we move into 1972, we're talking about 9,600 units. As we move into 1973, we're planning to move to 12,000 units.

"And by the way," he added, "we have an inventory now of housing of 260,000 units. But we're rapidly moving towards the correction of, indeed, the deficiency that was cited.

"In addition to the units that we're talking about here, we're also working with the FHA. We're developing, in conjunction with the FHA, a capability for ensuring the availability of housing for our lower income people—in addition to the housing that we are going to acquire under our military construction program. In 1971, we are talking about 4,500 units of this type housing. As we move into 1972, our plan is for 10,000 units of this type housing. And it's our intent to hopefully move towards a continuation of at least 10,000 per year.

"Our intent," he stressed, "is to get into this backlog and, hopefully, clean up this backlog of housing need in very short order. We believe that we're moving in the right direction to do just that. . . ."

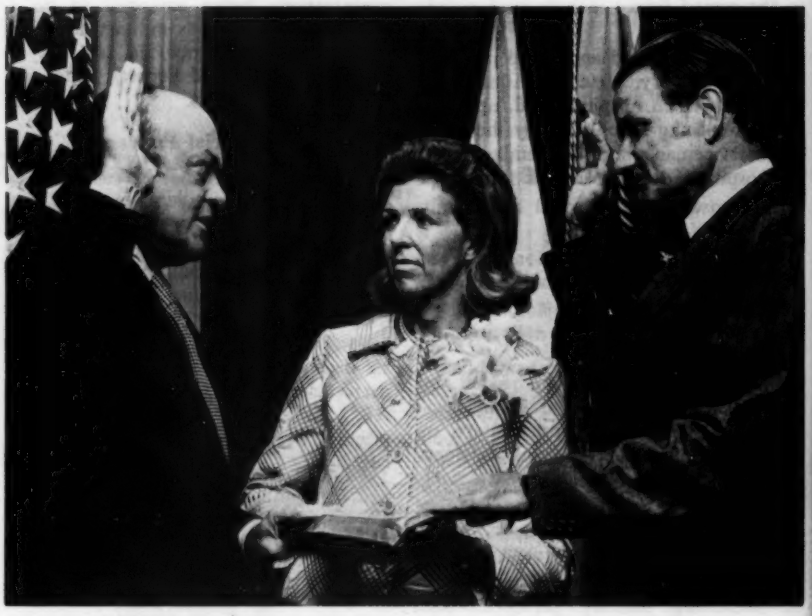
Gen. Heiser added: "It's national policy for us to do everything we can to foster a first-class, modern, volunteer Army and armed services. And this particular part of the job is a very essential thing, because we've got to take care of our military people and their dependents—otherwise we are not going to attract the kind of people we need.

Two Sides

"We have to be sure that we're not wasting taxpayer money in putting up permanent structures where we may not retain those military men and their dependents. For example, in overseas areas, we are pushing to do more rental guarantee. In other words, we get people, as in Germany, to build apartments, etc., and we would rent these apartments. In that way, we would provide housing, and, from the taxpayer point of view, the allowance rental given to the military personnel would then go into the German economy, but we would not have put in capital in order to build that housing."

Mr. Shillito added, "[There will be] a significant change as far as this [military family housing] deficiency is concerned in the next few years . . ."

He said it was "part of our military construction program to include [school] construction as well. When we move into a housing need, we look at the total installation, the total need. . . ."



NEW DOD OFFICIAL. Dr. Richard S. Wilbur, right, is sworn into office as Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Environment) by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird as Mrs. Wilbur holds the Holy Bible at the July 27 Pentagon ceremony. Dr. Wilbur was Deputy Vice President of the American Medical Association before coming to Washington. (DoD Photo by Frank E. Hall)

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